Application Serial No. 09/937,854 Amendment and Response dated September 24, 2003 Reply to Office action of May 30, 2003

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

- 1. (Cancelled)
- 2. (Cancelled)
- 3. (Cancelled)
- 4. (Currently Amended) <u>Shaping tool for the polymerisation of profiled parts made</u> of a composite material, comprising:

a rigid mould (10), and shaping means (24) suitable for pushing a part blank (E) into contact with the rigid mould, the tooling being characterized in that the rigid mould (10) is formed of several elements (14, 16) without any connection between them, holding means (36, 36') being provided to keep the said elements normally in contact with each other so as to define a cavity (12) inside which the part blank (E) can be fitted, while enabling the said elements (14, 16) to separate during a cool phase following polymerisation of the blank;

the holding means having means (36, 36') of applying a pressure on an outside face (16b) of at least one (16) of the elements in order to move it towards an adjacent element (14); and

said outside face (16b) is approximately parallel to an inside face (16b) delimiting the cavity (12) from the element (16) on which it is formed, or from a counter-formed placed inside this element;

Tooling according to claim 2, in which wherein the elements (14, 16) of the rigid mould (10) are placed inside a rigid envelope (20) and the pressure application means include at least one flexible wall (36) connected in a leak tight manner on the envelope (20) and that can be forced into contact with the said external face (16b) by applied pressure.

- 5. (Currently Amended) Tooling according to claim 2 4, in which the elements (14, 16) of the rigid mould (10) are placed in a rigid envelope (20) and the means of applying the pressure include at least one leak tight bladder (16') (36') bearing on the envelope (20) and that is forced into contact with the said outside face (16b) by applied pressure.
- 6. (Currently Amended) Tooling according to <u>claim 4</u>, in which the rigid mould (10) forms a cavity (12) with a U-section and has a central element (14) materialising the bottom of the cavity and two end elements (16) materializing the sides of the cavity, the holding means (36) normally keeping the end elements in contact with the side edges (14b) of the central element (14).
- 7. (Previously Amended) Tooling according to claim 4, in which the means of applying pressure comprise two flexible walls (36) that can be forced into contact with the said external faces (16b) of each of the end elements (16), by applied pressure.
- 8. (Cancelled)
- 9. (Previously Amended) Tooling according to claim 5, in which the means of applying pressure comprise two leak tight bladders (36') that can be applied in contact with the said outside faces (16b) of each of the end elements (16), under the effect of the pressure output by an external pressure source.
- 10. (Currently Amended) Tooling according to <u>claim 4</u>, in which the cross-section of the cavity (12) in uniform along its entire length.

- 11. (Currently Amended) Tooling according to claim $\frac{1}{4}$ in which the cross-section of the cavity (12) is variable from one end to the other.
- 12. (cancelled)
- 13. (Currently Amended) Tooling according to claim 3 4, in which the elements (14, 16) of the rigid mould (10) are placed in a rigid envelope (20) and the means of applying the pressure include at least one leak tight bladder (16') (36') bearing on the envelope (20) and that is forced into contact with the said outside face (16b) by applied pressure.
- 14. (Previously Added) Tooling according to claim 5, in which the rigid mould (10) forms a cavity (12) with a U-section and has a central element (14) materializing the bottom of the cavity and two end elements (16) materializing the sides of the cavity, the holding means (36) normally keeping the end elements in contact with the side edges (14b) of the central element (14).
- 15. (Previously Added) Tooling according to claim 6, in which the means of applying pressure comprise two flexible walls (36) that can be forced into contact with the said external faces (16b) of each of the end elements (16), by applied pressure.
- 16. (Previously Added) Tooling according to claim 7, in which external pressure is applied to the flexible walls (36).
- 17. (Previously Added) Tooling according to claim 6, in which the means of applying pressure comprise two leak tight bladders (36') that can be applied in contact with the said outside faces (16b) of each of the end elements (16), under the effect of the pressure output by an external pressure source.
- 18. (Cancelled)
- 19. (Previously Added) Tooling according to claim 9, in which the cross-section of the cavity (12) is variable from one end to the other.

20. (New) Shaping tool for the polymerisation of profiled parts made of a composite material, comprising:

a rigid mould (10), and shaping means (24) suitable for pushing a part blank (E) into contact with the rigid mould, the tooling being characterized in that the rigid mould (10) is formed of several elements (14, 16) without any connection between them, holding means (36, 36') being provided to keep the said elements normally in contact with each other so as to define a cavity (12) inside which the part blank (E) can be fitted, while enabling the said elements (14, 16) to separate during a cool phase following polymerisation of the blank;

wherein the mould comprises at least one central element and two end elements, said central element having abutment surfaces for said end elements and said holding means urging said end elements against said abutment surfaces, independently of said shaping means.